

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /099 W
-----115835 112138Z /41

R 110901Z JAN 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5462
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0032

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IZ
SUBJECT: KURDISH INSURGENCY RESUMES AFTER ABORTED SECRET TALKS

1. TURKISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR INFORMS US THAT KURDISH DELEGATION REPRESENTING ADHERENTS OF BOTH MUSTAFA BARZANI AND JALAL TALABANI VISITED BAGHDAD ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO FOR TALKS WITH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. KURDS REPORTEDLY WERE PICKED UP BY IRAQI HELICOPTER FROM POINT NEAR KHAZNA, IN THE RUGGED AREA CLOSE TO INTERSECTION OF BORDERS OF IRAQ, TURKEY AND IRAN. IRAQI HOSTAGES REMAINED BEHIND AT THIS KURDISH-HELD SITE AS GUARANTEE FOR SAFE RETURN OF KURDISH DELEGATION.

2. IN BAGHDAD, KURDISH NEGOTIATORS PRESENTED THREE DEMANDS, ALL OF WHICH WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO GOVERNMENT:

(1) EXPAND AUTONOMOUS AREA WEST TO INCLUDE SINJAR AND OTHER NORTHERN AREAS NEAR SYRIAN BORDER, ABSORB KIRKUK AND OILFIELDS AND EXPAND SOUTH TO INCLUDE KHANAQUIN AND AREAS NEAR IRANIAN BORDER.

(2) WITHDRAW GOVERNMENT FORCES FROM AUTONOMOUS AREA
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AND ALLOW PESH MERGA TO TAKE OVER SECURITY FUNCTIONS.
(3) DISMISS PRESENT MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AUTONOMOUS AREA AND ALLOW THEIR REPLACEMENT BY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

3. AFTER RETURN OF DELEGATION TO THE NORTH AND THEIR EXCHANGE FOR HOSTAGES, FIGHTING HAS RESUMED. IT IS

AT A LOW LEVEL, HOWEVER, WHICH HAS NOT NECESSITATED
FURTHER MOVES OF IRAQI MILITARY INTO AREA OF INSURGENCY.

4. IN RECENT TALKS WITH TURKS, IRAQI MILITARY MEN
COMPLAINED THAT TURKISH ARMY NOT DOING ENOUGH TO PREVENT
INFILTRATION OF KURDISH REBELS AND SUPPLIS THROUGH
TURKISH BORDER AREAS FROM SYRIA. TURKS RESPONDED
THAT THEY HAD STOPPED INFILTRATION DURING SUMMER MONTHS,
BUT ONSET OF WINTER IN THESE AREAS OF EXTREMELY ROUGH
TERRAIN WAS HIGHLY FAVORABLE TO GUERRILA SUPPLY
AND REINFORCEMENT MOVEMENTS.
PECK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COUNTERINSURGENCY, KURDS, PARAMILITARY FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAGHDA00032
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780016-1154
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780178/aaaacnmi.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b697eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3796188
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KURDISH INSURGENCY RESUMES AFTER ABORTED SECRET TALKS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b697eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014